

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A process comprising the steps of feeding at least a single continuous web in a machine direction as a component member of a disposable wearing article being continuously manufactured, feeding continuous elastic members toward at least one surface of said [[:]] web while said continuous elastic members are oscillated in a cross direction relative to said machine direction, and attaching said continuous elastic members in a stretched state to said one surface in [[a]] accordance with a desired layout, said process further comprising the steps of:

feeding said web to a nip between a pair of press rolls substantially being in contact with each other and adapted to rotate in said machine direction around respective axes extending parallel to each other in said cross direction; and

feeding said elastic members from upstream of said pair of press rolls to the nip between said press rolls via guide means adapted to oscillate said elastic members in said cross direction and attaching said elastic members to said web by means of an adhesive;

wherein each of said guide means comprises:

a motor having a rotary shaft extending in a direction crossing said axes and adapted to repeat reversal of its rotational direction;

an arm connected directly with said rotary shaft and extending in a direction crossing said rotary shaft, said arm being formed on its distal end with guide means adapted for passage of said elastic members, and said arm being adapted to swing around said rotary shaft as said rotary shaft

rotates; and

at least one feed ~~[[men]]~~ member located upstream of said rotary shaft as viewed in said machine direction and adapted to direct said elastic members toward said guide means; and

wherein, in the course of running from said feed member to said pair of press rolls via said guide means, said elastic members are attached to said web while said elastic members are oscillated in said cross direction by said arm connected directly with said rotary shaft so as to repeat reversal of its swinging direction.

2. **(currently amended)** The process according to Claim 1, further comprising using ~~wherein a servomotor is used~~ as said motor.

3. **(currently amended)** The process according to Claim 2, further comprising controlling ~~wherein said servomotor is actuated by a controller containing therein a program adapted to rotate~~ said servomotor on the basis of a running speed of at least said web in said machine direction and said layout desired for said elastic members.

4. **(previously presented)** The process according to Claim 1, wherein said arm is formed from a composite material comprising any one selected from the group consisting of carbon fiber, glass fiber, metallic fiber, synthetic fiber, semi-synthetic fiber and natural fiber and any one selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic synthetic resin and thermosetting synthetic resin.

5. **(currently amended)** The process according to Claim 1, further comprising arranging wherein

said axes of said ~~pair of~~ press rolls ~~extend~~ in a horizontal ~~direction~~ plane,

said rotary shaft of said motor ~~extends~~ in a vertical direction, and
said arm to extend ~~extends~~ in said horizontal ~~direction~~ plane from said rotary shaft toward
said nip between said ~~pair of~~ press rolls.

6. **(currently amended)** The process according to Claim 1, wherein said elastic members are directed from said guide means to said nip between said pair of press rolls so that said elastic members are positioned in a plane ~~is in coincide with a tangential line with respect to said press rolls in~~ a region in which said ~~pair of~~ press rolls substantially contact each other.

7. **(currently amended)** The process according to Claim 5, wherein said elastic members extend from said feed member to said guide means at a deviation angle of 10° or less relative to ~~[[said]]~~ a horizontal direction plane defined by the parallel axes of said press rolls.

8. **(currently amended)** An apparatus for feeding at least a ~~single~~ continuous web in a machine direction as a component member of ~~[[a]]~~ disposable wearing articles being continuously manufactured, feeding at least one continuous elastic member ~~members~~ toward at least one surface of said web while said at least one continuous elastic member ~~is members are~~ oscillated in a cross direction transverse ~~relative~~ to said machine direction, and attaching said at least one continuous elastic member ~~members~~ in a stretched state to said one surface in accordance with a desired layout, said apparatus comprising:

a pair of press rolls ~~extending parallel to each other and~~ substantially contacting each other, said ~~pair of~~ press rolls being rotatable ~~rotating in said machine direction~~ around respective axes extending in said cross direction so as to feed said web in said machine direction, and

a ~~guide means~~ guiding mechanism located upstream of ~~said pair of~~ said press rolls as viewed in said machine direction to oscillate said at least one elastic member ~~members~~ in said cross

direction;

wherein ~~each of said guide means~~ guiding mechanism comprises: [[:]]

a motor which has ~~having~~ a rotary shaft extending in a direction transverse to ~~crossing~~ said axes and is adapted to repeatedly reverse a ~~repeat reversal of its~~ rotational direction of said rotary shaft;

an [[aim]] arm connected directly with said rotary shaft and longitudinally extending in a direction transverse to ~~crossing~~ said rotary shaft, said arm being formed on [[its]] a distal end thereof with a guiding element through which ~~said guide means adapted for passage of~~ said at least one elastic member ~~members~~ is passable, and said arm being adapted to swing around said rotary shaft as said rotary shaft rotates; and

at least one feed member located upstream of said rotary shaft as viewed in said machine direction and adapted to direct said at least one elastic member ~~members~~ toward said ~~guide means~~ guiding element.

9. (original) The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said motor is a servomotor.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising a controller, wherein said servomotor is electrically connected with [[a]] the controller which is programmed ~~containing therein a program adapted~~ to rotate said servomotor on the basis of a running speed of at least said web in said machine direction and said layout desired for said at least one elastic member ~~members~~.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said arm contains a composite material comprising any one selected from the group consisting of carbon

fiber, glass fiber, metallic fiber, synthetic fiber, semi-synthetic fiber and natural fiber and any one selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic synthetic resin and thermosetting synthetic resin.

12. **(currently amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said axes of said ~~pair of~~ press rolls extend in a horizontal ~~direction~~ plane, said rotary shaft of said motor extends in a vertical direction, and said arm extends in said horizontal plane ~~direction~~ from said rotary shaft toward ~~[[said]]~~ a nip between said ~~pair of~~ press rolls.

13. **(currently amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said arm extends substantially in ~~coincide with~~ a plane tangential ~~line with respect to~~ said press rolls in a region in which said ~~pair of~~ press rolls substantially contact each other.

14. **(currently amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said feed member and said guiding element ~~guide means~~ are located so that said at least one elastic member ~~members~~ extends from said feed member to said guiding element ~~guide means~~ at a deviation angle of 10° or less relative to ~~[[said]]~~ a horizontal ~~direction~~ plane defined by the parallel axes of said press rolls.

15. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein an axis of said rotary shaft is stationary relative to the axes of said press rolls.

16. **(new)** The process according to claim 1, further comprising maintaining an axis of said rotary shaft stationary relative to the axes of said press rolls while the elastic members are being fed and oscillated at the same time towards said nip.

17. **(new)** The process according to claim 1, wherein said elastic members are attached to said web by means of the adhesive only in regions corresponding to leg openings of the disposable wearing article being manufactured;

said method further comprising

cutting the elastic members between said regions so that the cut elastic members do not extend across an entire width of the disposable wearing article being manufactured, and

attaching an absorbent core to said web, wherein portions of the cut elastic members that have not been attached to said web contract to a relaxed state and are located near transverse edges of the absorbent core.

18. **(new)** The process according to claim 1, further comprising controlling rotational oscillating movements of the arm of each said guide means such that at least one of (i) the desired layout and (ii) a stretching ratio of the elastic members fed by one guide means is different from that of the elastic members fed by the other guide means.

19. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a rotational axis about which the arm swings coincides with a rotational axis of said rotary shaft.

20. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising

a pair of further press rolls substantially contacting each other, said further press rolls being rotatable around respective axes extending in said cross direction so as to feed said web in said machine direction, and

a further guiding mechanism located upstream of said further press rolls and downstream of said press rolls as viewed in said machine direction to oscillate at least one further elastic member

in said cross direction;

wherein said further guiding mechanism comprises:

a further motor which has a further rotary shaft extending in a direction transverse to said axes of the further press rolls and is adapted to repeatedly reverse a rotational direction of said further rotary shaft;

a further arm connected directly with said further rotary shaft and extending in a direction transverse to said further rotary shaft, said further arm being formed on a distal end thereof with a further guiding element through which said at least one further elastic member is passable, and said further arm being adapted to swing around said further rotary shaft as said further rotary shaft rotates; and

at least one further feed member located upstream of said further rotary shaft as viewed in said machine direction and adapted to direct said at least one further elastic member toward said further guiding element.

21. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising a controller electrically coupled to said motor and further motor for controlling oscillating rotational movements of said arm and further arm, respectively, such that the at least one elastic member repeatedly intersect the at least one further elastic member on said web.